THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, in its last meeting held on 20.11.2009, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has recommended 17 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment amounting to Rs. 4,551.05 crore approximately for approval, 3 proposals for deferment and 4 proposals for rejection. The recommendations of the FIPB were approved by the Government of India. Press Release of the cases considered by FIPB is available in the website of Ministry of Finance at *http://finmin.nic.in/fipbweb/fipbwebreports/webpaqe.asp.*

(e) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) complements and supplements domestic investment. Domestic companies are benefited by FDI by way of capital, state-of-art technology and best managerial practices so that they have better access to foreign technology and get opportunity of integration into the global market.

Impact of FTAs on domestic rubber producers

2161. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board considered the impact of recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on the domestic rubber producers;

(b) if so, when was the issue taken up by the Rubber Board and what were their recommendations; and

(c) whether the recommendations of the Rubber Board accommodated in the FTAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. While negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), Government takes a number of steps to protect the interest of domestic as well as export oriented industry and farmers. These include keeping the items, to which the domestic industry and farmers are sensitive, in the negative or the sensitive list. On such items, limited or no tariff concessions are granted to the trading partner. Such lists are prepared after consulting all stake holders including Rubber Board. Natural Rubber has been kept in the Negative List of most FTAs.

Exempting SEZs from State and local taxes

2162. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has requested the State Governments to exempt SEZs from State and local taxes;